

Adapting Farm Practices—getting down and dirty with the experts is the focus of two field days set for Aug. 19-20,”said Curt Sayles, Colorado Conservation Tillage Association (CCTA) president. “The Ravenkamp Farms, Hugo, Colo. and Steve Tucker Farm, west of Grant are the sites and the schedule runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.”

The events are sponsored by CCTA and No-till on the Plains who want to help farmers in western Kansas, eastern Colorado and western Nebraska make every raindrop count, he said. With the persistent exceptional to severe drought in much of this region they want farmers to be able to see that adapting certain farming practices to their operations might get them through this year and set them up for years to come.

Sayles said in addition to hearing from farmer-hosts, the workshop speakers include Odette Menard, soil conservationist for the Ministry of Agriculture, Quebec, Canada, who will speak at the soil pit on each farm, and she will discuss reading soil profile to understand how farming practices and crop rotations can increase water efficiency, build soil health and decrease weather related risk.

Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln agriculture engineer will speak about setting planters, drills and other equipment for their effectiveness in semi-arid farming. Bruce Bosley, Colorado State University Extension Logan-Morgan Counties, will talk about insects and opportunities to use integrated pest management.

The field day registration is \$45 for each site through Aug. 16; then costs jump to \$70 per site. Register online at www.highplainsnotill.com or call 719-740-0715 Colorado Conservation Tillage Association.